

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CLAIM 1 FOR USPA 09/684,742**

**(MBHB Docket No. 08-880-US9)**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a sensor network comprising a plurality of nodes, wherein the plurality of nodes comprises at least one sensor node, ~~each sensor node~~ comprising at least one sensor, the method comprising:

organizing the plurality of nodes into a plurality of clusters by:

receiving an assembly packet from a first node at at least one node neighboring the first node, wherein the assembly packet includes a cluster indication and an instruction, wherein the instruction is either a become-base instruction or a become-remote instruction, and

in response to reception of the assembly packet at the at least one node,

[[if]] in response to the at least one node [[has]] having received a previous assembly packet, the at least one node ignores ignoring the assembly packet, and

[[if]] in response to the at least one node has not having received a previous assembly packet, the at least one node (i) determines determining a cluster for the node based on the cluster indication in the assembly packet, (ii) modifies modifying the assembly packet to include a modified cluster indication, and (iii) transmits transmitting the modified assembly packet with the modified cluster indication to each node at least one neighboring the node, wherein modifying the assembly packet comprises:

modifying the assembly packet to include a modified cluster indication,

in response to the instruction being a become-base instruction,  
modifying the assembly packet to include a become-remote instruction,  
and

in response to the instruction being a become-remote instruction,  
modifying the assembly packet to include a become-base instruction;

collecting data using the at least one sensor node; and

distributing storage and processing of the collected data among the plurality of clusters comprising transferring data collected from the at least one sensor node to a node in a cluster other than a cluster comprising the at least one sensor node.